Read Me

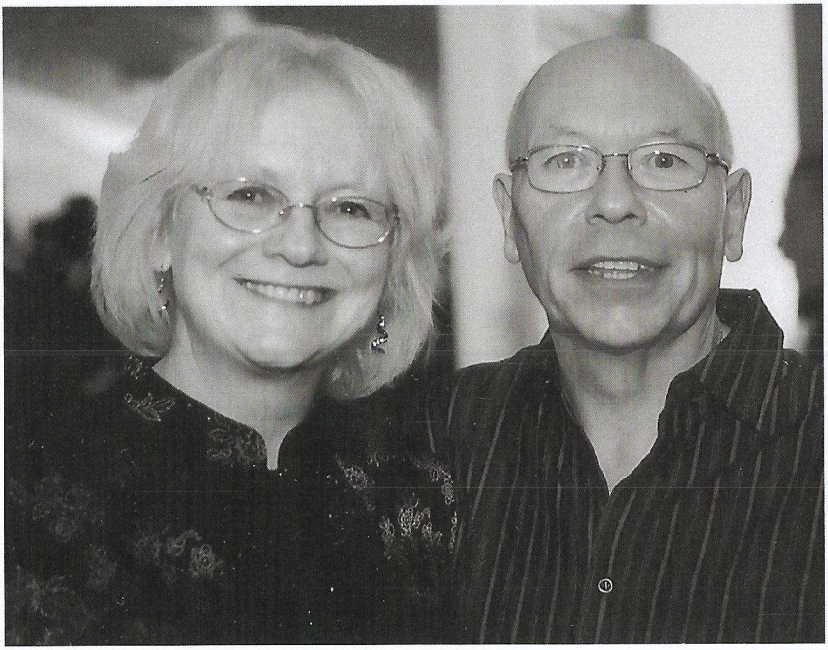
The Park Inn, Heathrow

3-6 April 2015

Novacon 45

13th-15th November 2015
The Park Inn, Nottingham

The annual convention of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group



Guests of Honour: Stan and Anne Nicholls

http://www.novacon.org/ http://www.stannicholls.com/

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WELCOME TO DYSPROSIUM the 66th Eastercon. We have beer. And cider. And bad grammar and sentence structure. Can't ask more of a convention focused on the more literary as well as new media elements of science fiction and fantasy.

There are known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns and we hope some of those unknown unknowns will become known knowns through this ReadMe. Or it might just drive you to the bar for more beer – either way we're happy!

Hotel Check In/Out Times & WiFi
Hotel check in time is 14:00 and check out is 12:00

For wireless network access, please connect to the "ParkInn_Guest" Network.

1. Open your webbrowser
2. Choose the 'Meeting Delegate' option on the left hand side
3. Select your meeting/company name on the displayed list - Either Dysprosium or Eastercon (we think)
4. Enter *meet/2015* and click connect
5. Now you have internet access!

Parking
We have arranged parking in both the hotel car park and the NCP behind the hotel at £5 per vehicle per day. Do not use the machines in either car park to pay for your parking. In the hotel car park, register your licence plate at Reception and either pay or charge to your room. In the NCP, take your ticket to the attendant and they will take payment manually. Note that you can leave and re-enter the hotel car park during your stay without being charged for separate parking sessions. But you cannot do this in the NCP, so please plan your parking accordingly. Although both car parks are large, both operate park-and-fly services, so both will be busy.

Accessible Parking

There are approximately 8 disabled bays at the front of the hotel. However, these fill up very quickly. In the White Car Park outside the Aviator entrance there are a further two disabled bays. There are another couple at the flight crew entrance, but it should be noted that the wheelchair access to the flight crew entrance is potentially hazardous and a wheelchair user should not be expected to descend it unaided.

Registration Opening times
5pm to 8pm on Thursday

10am to 6pm on Friday

9am to 5pm on Saturday & Sunday

9am to 12pm on Monday

When the desk is closed, please report to Ops for registration matters. Please do not attempt to access the convention without having gone through some form of registration process.

Volunteering and GRoaTs
This convention is made by you in so many ways. Everyone attending the convention has given freely of their time to get this far. However, there are many jobs still to do and you can help the convention to run smoothly all the way through to Tuesday morning.

In exchange for volunteering you will receive GRoaTs (Gopher Reward Tokens) which you can exchange for food or drink in the hotel. You can use them as part-payment towards your room and most of the dealers will accept them in exchange for goods. Please note that you will not receive change. So, for example, if you buy a sandwich for £5 and you present 6 Groats, you'll not receive 1 Groat (or £1) in change. In that situation it would be better to present 4 Groats and

£1 of coin of the realm as top-up. GRoaTs have no monetary value and cannot be exchanged for cash. They can be exchanged until 2am on Tuesday morning.

Groats come in ½, 1, 2, 5 and 10 denominations.

If, over the course of the convention, you complete 20 or more hours of volunteering, you will also receive a Dysprosium Eastercon Assemble T-shirt as our thanks. So, the sooner you volunteer, the sooner you'll get that t-shirt.

Behaviour, dress etc. in the hotel
We've said it before (in PR2 specifically) but we'll say it again - please do note that shoes must be worn in all public areas of the hotel unless you have specifically obtained permission in advance, and we do not have all rooms all nights so there may be non-convention members around the public areas. Respect the furniture as it belongs to the hotel and we will be liable for damage by members. It is the policy of the hotel to ban all smoking in all areas including e-cigarettes and all forms of visible pseudo-smoking. The smokers' area is outside the hotel, away from the entrance doors benches and tables. Please try and avoid smoking next to the doors to be courteous to other people, and please do not use the flight crew exit at the rear of the hotel as we have been asked specifically to not use that area. Plus NO DRONES! We're at an airport so please act accordingly.

Time of Breakfast in Con Hotel
It's the question everyone asks whenever they check in to a hotel - what time is breakfast please? Breakfast is from 9.00-11.00 daily.

If you aren't a Park Inn resident we've arranged for inexpensive breakfast rolls to be available on site. See below for prices.

Times of bar opening/closing and food serving hours
The real ale and cider bar and lounge bar will be open from 10:00am to 02:00am (and they remain open even later, if required but at 02:00am they will need a 30 minute end of day close and during this time the bar will be closed)

The hotel will be offering food at a range of times and prices throughout the day.

09.00-11.00: Breakfast rolls with a vegetarian option £4 each. These are available to everyone and are in addition to the hotel breakfast available for those staying at the Park Inn.

12.30-15.00: Lunch will be available from 12:30 – 15:00 in Bravo Bravo restaurant (3-course buffet £15 per person; children's size £5.95), the lounge area (sandwiches & paninis from £5), and the Aviator Suite (burgers and hot dogs from £5).

18.00-21.30: Dinner will be available in the Bravo Bravo restaurant (3-course buffet £18 per person – children's size £6.95), the lounge area (sandwiches & paninis from £5), and the Aviator Suite (burgers and hot dogs from £5).

Midnight to midnight thirty: Bacon rolls, Bacon and egg rolls or vegetarian option £4 each. Please make an effort to buy a voucher for this earlier in the evening so that Chef has an idea of how many to provide. But he'll make more than necessary, so don't feel guilty if you get a late attack of the munchies.

To minimise the amount of cash they have to handle, the hotel will be selling vouchers for all meals and the midnight snacks. If you would like to speed up the queues, please go to Hotel Reception where there will be a desk for you to purchase the vouchers you might need. You can pay cash or credit/debit card, or charge it to your room. The various food locations will also take cash, but there will be no card or room charge payments.

Coloured Pegs & What They Mean
At times around the convention you may observe someone wearing a mini coloured peg. We'll be implementing a system this year for folks who sometimes find interaction with other people

overwhelming.

Yellow, purple and red clips will be available at the registration desk. You can collect these at any time you like and keep them until you need them. When you need to use them, just clip them to your badge pouch, or anywhere clearly visible to other people.

This system is based on systems used at Autistic spaces and conferences, Nine Worlds and other conventions.

The clips are used to indicate the following:

Yellow: "I only want to talk to people I know right now. If we've met before, it's okay to talk to me."

Purple: "I would like to talk to new people but find it difficult to initiate conversation. Please say hello!"

Red: "I'd prefer not to talk with anyone right now. If I start a conversation with you, it's okay to talk to me."

Please respect other attendees' communication preferences and do not talk to them if they are wearing a clip which indicates that they do not want to be disturbed.

Lastly, it's okay if you make a genuine mistake because you didn't know - like if you didn't see someone's badge or clip, or forgot what it meant. Just make sure to keep an eye out for next time.

Locations of other items e.g. video room, games room
Besides the main programme which you can read about in the programme book, we also have:

Video room : Earhart

Games Room : Bader/LeClerque

Chaos Costuming : Garros

Quiet Room: Syndicate Room 20

Green Room: Syndicate Rooms 18 and 19

The Great Room Escape: Syndicate Room 17.

Ops Opening times & How to Report Lost/Stolen Property
Ops will be open from 12:00 to 24:00 Friday, 09:00 to 24:00 Saturday and Sunday, and 09:00 to 17:00 on Monday with someone on call overnight and a phone number posted at Ops that can be used to contact someone. No matter when something happens, day or night, support will absolutely be available, so please do not hesitate to go to at Ops anytime. If you are reporting lost or stolen property, we will need to involve the hotel and take information so please be understanding if it takes a few minutes to record all details.

If you have found something, please bring it to Ops and we will handle it from there.

How to Report Harassment
If you are being harassed, or you notice that someone else is being harassed, or you have any other concerns, please contact Ops immediately. The Ops Room will be found at the front entrance of the Orbiter Suite at the front of the hotel.

REMINDER!
If you take medication set a reminder on your phone each day to remind you to take it. There will be tap water available at all the food points, the real ale bar and the lounge bar at the front of the hotel. If none of these places can help you, please go to Ops for more assistance. Please be responsible and do not take medication with alcohol.

The 5-2-1 Rule
FIVE hours of sleep per day, TWO meals a day, ONE shower a day.

FIVE - You need to sleep to recharge your body and your brain – plus, snoring in sessions can put off panel members, some of whom may be new. Please be respectful.

TWO - your body and your mind both need the right kind of fuel and you blood sugar et al needs to be in balance. You cannot survive on a diet of beer and vitamins - please take care of yourself.

ONE - You often cannot smell what you smell like but others can. Please be considerate and remember - your nose blindness does not exist in others. Please respect others.

Child care times
If you are a parent of a child under 12 you will probably be aware that we have a crèche and programming suitable for younger fans. Crèche staff are also available for evening baby sitting duties at an additional cost of £7.50. The crèche is running:

Friday: 13:45 – 19:00

Saturday & Sunday: 09:45 – 12:30 then 13:45 – 19:00

Monday: 09:45 – 16:30

The location of the crèche is not being kept secret, it's just we only know that it will be in a suite on the ground floor somewhere. If you have children booked into the crèche, that information will be with their badges. If you don't have children booked into the crèche, but would like to, please get in touch with Ops for more information.

Artwork by Wayne Dorrington
Did you take a mug or soap? Have you been enjoying your badge? Perhaps you have decided to buy a t-shirt? Notice the amazing font on your badge pouch? Have you seen our signage? How about that logo - like it? All this and more has been designed and donated for our use by Wayne Dorrington. Wayne is extremely humble and is such an amazing person that he is spending part of the weekend helping his family so we'd like to thank him here and encourage you to buy the art he sells please. http://waynedorrington.blogspot.co.uk/ is his blog and you can buy his Wil Wheaton artwork here http://www.redbubble.com/people/waynedoz He is the most generous, wonderful, talented graphic designer any of the committee have met and we love his groat designs, t-shirt design, well heck we love everything he's done for us. THANK YOU, WAYNE!

Times of feedback sessions
At 9am on Saturday, Sunday and Monday you will have the opportunity to give your feedback to the committee. These sessions are often attended by the incoming committee as well as the current one, so to get your voice heard, attend and offer constructive feedback.

Locations of cash machines
A bank machine is never nearby when you need it. Well, there is one in the hotel which charges £1.85. The nearest free one is in the petrol station which is about five minutes' walk away.

Pharmacies
Village Pharmacy - 218 High Street - Hayes, Greater London UB3 5DS (closest) Good Friday closed, Saturday open 9 – 5:30, Sunday & Monday closed

Dunn's Pharmacy - Alphega Pharmacy - 740 Bath Road - Hounslow TW5 9TY

Medics Pharmacy - 11 Dawley Road – Hayes - UB3 1LS

Orchards Pharmacy Ltd - 6 Laurel La - West Drayton UB7 7TU

Carewell Chemist - 10 Mulberry Parade - West Drayton UB7 9AE

Local places of worship and times of services
The Concierge located in the lobby at the front of the hotel should be able to provide you with directions to places of worship and the times of their services.

Warnings about dangerous parts of town
London is large and all of it has an element of danger. Obviously the area around the airport is patrolled more than most areas so could be considered safe but crimes such as mobile phone thefts are on the rise. Most common mobile phone thefts happen by someone stealing it out of the victim's hand while the thief is on foot, bicycle or motorbike. Leaving the hotel area is safe but some areas around the hotel are somewhat run down. After dark we always recommend having a buddy with you but it should be safe to walk to places like McDonald's and back.

Cloakroom
Regardless of which hotel you're staying at, or if you're commuting in each day, the cloakroom in the Orbiter Suite will be available for you to check your coats and bags in daily if you are commuting in. This is located immediately to the right of Registration.

Baggage Store
When you arrive at the hotel, if your room is not available immediately, you will be able to store your baggage safely. If the hotel baggage store is full, please take your bags to the Cloakroom in the Orbiter Suite where they will either be stored, or taken to another room for temporary storage.

On check-out, if you need to store bags until you leave, the same rules will apply: if the hotel baggage store is full, please take your bags to the Cloakroom in Orbiter where they will either be stored, or taken to another room for temporary storage.

Monday Fire Alarm Check
A note for anyone who'll still be in the hotel on Monday that at 17:00 there will be a 5 second fire alarm test.

The Committee and Sub-Committee - Doze Wat Done Dis
There are a lot of people that all come together for no other reason than to help out for no recognition, no pay (in fact they have to buy their own memberships) and they basically get no con. The core committee additionally each have to personally guarantee any losses incurred by the convention, adding an additional layer of risk to their lives. In order to ensure you know who has given selflessly of their time we have listed the committee and staff below. Please, if you see them around the con even just a "thank you" would be awesome (if embarrassing) to help remind them when they are exhausted and sleep-deprived just why they are doing this.

Committee: Judi Hodgkin - Chair; Tim Kirk – Deputy Chair and Committee Member Without Portfolio; Paul Taylor – Secretary and web site; Peter Harrow - Legal Counsel and Deputy Head of Programme; John Naylor & Karen Glover - Advisors; Sarah Shemilt - Treasurer; John Harold - Logistics/Ops; Sarah Brider - Hotel Liaison; David Row - Programme; Judith Lewis - Communications.

Staff: Colette Reap - Registration; Sian Bradshaw - Ops; Peter Smith (Smudge) - Tech; Kate Wood - Gopher Hole; John Wilson - Deputy Hotel Liaison; Dave Tompkins, John & Robbie - Art Show; Major Tinker - Dealer's Room(s); Serena Culfeather - Guest Liaison; The Westheads - Green Room; Farah Mendlesohn & Edward James - Publications; Alison Scott - Newsletter, Murphy's Lawyer - Film/TV Programme.

The Chocolate We Chose
With so many children still being kidnapped and forced into slavery on cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast (the largest producer of cocoa for chocolate globally) the committee wanted to take a stand against slavery and poverty wages for cocoa farmers with their chocolate choice this year. We have purchased Divine Easter eggs as prizes and we have Divine mini (5g) bars for all members should they wish to try them. We chose these instead of the usual Easter chocolate for

a number of reasons but primarily because Divine is 45% owned by the farmers who grow and farm the cocoa. Divine buys their cocoa from the Kuapa Kokoo co-operative who pay quickly and use scales that are accurate - things we take for granted but these Ghanaian farmers cannot. Divine Chocolate uses quality cocoa beans from Kuapa Kokoo to make a delicious range of chocolate products available in ten countries worldwide. As well as sharing in the profits, members of Kuapa have a say in how Divine is managed.

We would like to encourage you to taste-test the chocolate we have purchased (please be considerate to others) and consider switching your chocolaty treats to this ethical company. They also produce the only mass-market palm-oil-free caramel which they include in their dark and milk caramel bars.

Local restaurants
This list is not comprehensive and is *UNCHECKED* so the food could be brilliant or it could be awful. We hope that as the convention progresses that you will submit mini reviews for us to publish in the newsletter.

Il Basilico - 627 Sipson Road - West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 0JE 12:00–2:30 pm, 5:30–10:00 pm As these folks are closest to the hotel we recommend phoning ahead for a table as they have space for 30 – 40 only. 020 8897 3839

Three Magpies - Bath Road - Heathrow, Middlesex TW6 2AU 020 8759 1071 open M - Sat 11am – 11pm and 12 – 10:30pm on Sunday

The Pheasant Inn & Restaurant Heathrow - 98 West End Lane – Harlington, Hayes UB3 5LX 020 8759 9685 (often used, highly recommended) Pub - everyday:12pm – 10:30pm for food Restaurant Friday: 12pm – 10pm, Sat:6pm – 10pm, Sunday:12 – 10pm, Monday:12 – 10pm

Madeirinhas - 47 Sipson Way - West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 0DW. Coffee shop with cakes and pastries and delicious sweet things 7:00 am – 9:00 pm (Closed Easter Sunday)

McDonald's Mondial Way - 15 Mondial Way - Uxbridge, Greater London UB3 5AR. Open 24h.

Zayani Indian Restaurant - 393-395 Sipson Road - West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 0HU. 12:00–2:30 pm, 5:30–11:30 pm (Sunday afternoon only). 020 8750 5557

Clay Oven - 322 High St – Harlington, Hayes UB3 5DU. Takeaway only. 020 8476 3303

The Harlington Tandoori - 316-318 High St – Harlington, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 5DU. 12:00–2:30pm, 5:30–11:30pm (Sunday evening only). Small local curry house with free hotel pick up for groups of 4 or more if you email 24h in advance and they have a driver free: info@harlingtontandoori.com. 020 8754 1414

Hot Spot (small independent fish & chip shop) - 308-310 High St – Harlington, Hayes UB3 5DU. (seating for up to 8 only – mainly take away) Fri & Sat 11am – 11pm (Sunday closed). 020 8581 0016.

Swans Chinese Takeaway - 292 High St - Harlington, Middlesex UB3 5DU. 6pm – 11pm. 020 8759 1500

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REDEMPTION '17

24 – 26 February 2017

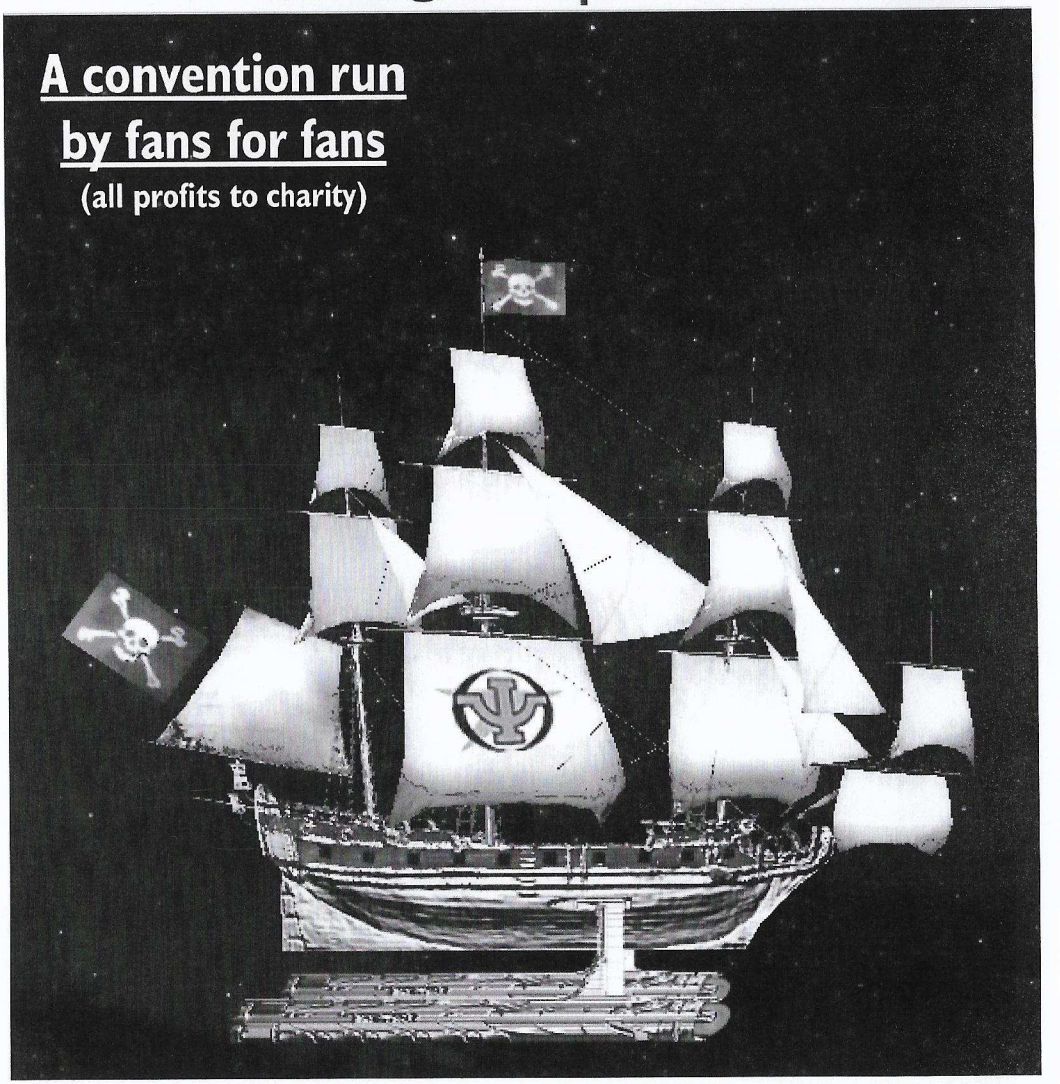
Venue to be announced

Multimedia Science Fiction Convention

Twitter: @RedemptionSFCon

A convention run by fans for fans

(all profits to charity)



info@conventions.org.uk www.smof.com/redemption

Bristol-CON 2015

Fantasy & Science Fiction Convention

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Jaine Fenn **Jasper Fforde**

ARTIST GUEST OF HONOUR

Chris Moore

Also Attending
ANNE LYLE
JONATHAN L HOWARD
JANET EDWARDS
LIZ DE JAGER
ROSIE OLIVER
PHILIP PURSER-HALLARD

Discussion Panels
Art Show
Dealers' Tables
Book Readings
A Chat With...
Games Room
Evening Entertainment

#BRISTOLCON

POLICE

Doubletree Hotel,
Redcliffe Way,
Bristol BS1 6NJ

PRICES
£20 Until 30th April
£25 From 1st May
£30 On the day

PayPal VISA BANK

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WWW.BRISTOLCON.ORG

Saturday 26th September 2015